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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1. BOSTON, MASS., FEB. 15, 1898. NO. 8.

A FEW HENS 13 PUBLISHED MONTHLY, and devoted to every branch of MARKET POULTRY CULTURE. Its field is in the suburbs of cities, large towns, villages, and on the farms of all America. It contains

Brief Hints for Busy People.

Those who have not time to read and experiment upon theories, but who want to get helpful, practical suggestions, which may be put into practice daily. A FEW HENS is a "boiled down" journal. It is not padded—saying, in as few words as possible, what is necessary—giving the cream and not the skim-milk of practical poultry information.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J. To whom all exchanges and communications for publication should be addressed.

The editor is actively engaged in making poultry experiments, and in this journal alone, he will publish from time to time the result of his work.

Subscriptions, advertisements, and all business matters must be sent to publication office at Boston. A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Stick!
Hold-on!
200-egg hens wanted.
Get ready for spring.
Sunshine is a poultry tonic.
Be patient, and do your work well.
Corner-loading hens are unprofitable.
The mortgage-lifting hen is in evidence.
And now the broiler industry has started.
Helter-skelter methods work destruction.
A shower bath is not relished by the poultry.
One year's experience don't make a poultryman.
The worst-looking hen is oftentimes the best layer.
Does your January account show a good beginning?
Neatness and cleanliness belong to the same family.
And soon the voice of the chick will be heard in the land.
"Trained thinking and wise working" is the keynote to success.
Because others failed is no reason why you should not succeed.
Thank goodness, the Wall street brokers can't gamble with the hen crop.
The White Wyandottes, it seems, are rivaling the Leghorns in egg records.
February is generally a severe month; see that the chickens are comfortable.
This is the month for a general revival of the egg business; everybody's hens are laying.

Experimental Farm Notes.

The Year's Account in Full—Our Breeding Stock—How One Man is Working the Problem—The New Scratching Shed House—Evan's Vegetable and Root Cutter—Lighting up the Place at Night.

The December account is more encouraging than was that of November (given in last issue). We gave the Brahma pullets a set back by moving them to their new scratching shed house, so that we got but seven eggs from them for the month. Our Wyandotte pullets began laying December 13th, and gave us 41 eggs for the month. The White Leghorns started December 7th, and laid 54 eggs. All told, the egg crop amounted to \$3.16. We cleaned up odds and ends in the poultry line—drakes, late-hatched ducks, cockerels, etc., from which we realized \$31.49.

The feed for December cost \$15.61; incidentals, \$2.99; improvements, \$87.24.

Amount received for eggs and poultry, \$34.65. From this take the cost of feed and incidentals, \$18.60, and there is a profit of \$16.05.

In our December issue we made a mistake in charging interest on incidentals, so that the full report for the year, must be as follows:

Eggs, to Nov. 1st,	\$42.22	
November,	.72	
December,	3.16	
		\$ 46.10
Poultry, to Nov. 1st,	\$193.21	
November,	45.25	
December,	31.49	
		\$269.95
Total receipts,		\$316.05
Expense, Feed to Nov. 1st,	\$79.39	
November,	12.80	
December,	15.61	
		\$107.80
Incidentals, to Nov. 1st,	\$2.15	
November,	7.82	
December,	2.99	
		\$ 12.96
Investment in improvements to Nov. 1st,	\$738.98	
November,	60.94	
December,	87.24	
		\$887.16
Land,		300.00
Total,	\$1,187.16	
Interest on above, at 6 per ct.,	\$ 71.22	
		\$191.98
Leaving a profit for the year of	\$124.07	

January 1st, our breeding stock consisted of the following:

YARD No. 1—Eight late-hatched Light Brahma pullets, and five yearling Brahma hens. No male bird is in this run at present. Value, \$26.00.

YARD No. 2—Thirteen common hens mated to a Single Comb White Leghorn cockerel. Value, \$7.50.

YARD No. 3—Eleven White Wyandotte pullets, mated to a fine White Wyandotte cockerel. The birds in this yard represent the Stevenson, Coburn, Duston, Forsyth and Curtis strains. Value, \$24.00.

YARD No. 4—Eight Felch Light Brahma hens, two Warrington hens, and one Warrington cock. Value, \$33.00.

YARD No. 5—Thirty Single Comb White Leghorn pullets, and one cockerel (Wyckoff-Curtis strain). Value, \$31.00.

YARD No. 6—Twelve Light Brahma pullets (early hatch), and one cockerel. Value, \$26.00.

In another run we have three Light Brahma cockerels and one White Wyandotte cockerel, reserved in case of accident to some of the breeding male birds. Value, \$7.00.

In ducks, Yard No. 1 is at present occupied by the aforesaid cockerels.

YARD No. 2—Six late-hatched Pekin ducks, mated to an early-hatched Pekin drake, of our own raising.

YARD No. 3—Six Aylesbury ducks (two years old) mated to a Pekin drake, of our own raising.

YARD No. 4—Six Pekin ducks and one drake (our own, early hatch).

YARD No. 5—Ditto.

YARD No. 6—Four Newman ducks mated to a Hallock drake (the pen used last year, 1896 hatch).

YARD No. 7—Six Hallock ducks, mated to a Pekin drake, our own hatch.

YARD No. 8—Ditto.

YARD No. 9—Ditto.

YARD No. 10—Six ducks and one drake (our own, early hatch).

We received our first duck egg for the season, from Pen No. 4 on January 9th.

January 12th, Pen No. 6 laid their first egg.

January 19th, Pen No. 3 started with an egg.

January 20th, Pen No. 5 gave us two eggs for a beginning, and Pen No. 7 started with one egg.

Besides, four late-hatched ducks are in a separate pen, being fattened for killing. Market value, \$3.00.

By valuing the breeding ducks at two dollars each (which is certainly a low figure) we have an investment of \$127.00.

The total value of breeding fowls, \$154.50; making the total valuation of stock on hand, \$281.50. Such a valuation in stock, and a clean profit of \$124.07, is certainly a very good year's work.

We do not intend to subtract this profit from the amount invested in improvements, as we want to count that towards the income of the man. Just as soon as we reach an income of two dollars a day, we will use the surplus in paying off the debt. Until then we will charge six per cent. on all moneys invested.

There is one point we are making, in building up our experimental two acre farm, that we have not yet mentioned, and which might be of interest. We want to prove just how much a man himself can do in a year, in starting, both in growing the stock and putting up the buildings and runs. So we hired a young man who wanted to learn the business, and who at the same time was very handy with carpenter tools. He attends to the poultry, and when that work is finished he is at work building. The only help we give him is in mixing the feed, and the rest of the time that we devote on the farm, is given to experiments which do not directly affect this two acre scheme.

In our item of investment on improvements, the wages of this young man are added, for his labor in building goes with the improvements being made.

As we mentioned before, when we began, there was nothing on this two acre tract excepting two old, delapidated hen houses, and a few fruit trees and grape vines. Not much could be done during last winter, on account of the heavy snow storms. There was snow on the ground when we moved on this place, and it continued more or less throughout the winter. It was an unusual winter for Southern New Jersey. This year, the coldest weather recorded by our thermometer was eighteen degrees above zero, and there was, all told, up to this writing (January 20th), about three inches of snow, which lasted about two days.

So all our man could do last winter was to repair the old hen houses, and odds and ends about the place, like shoveling snow, running errands, and other matters which did not really belong to the poultry part—but we had to give him employment to retain him for the rest of the season.

It was March before he really began work on the farm that counted. Since then he has built thirteen chick houses and runs; eleven 4x4 houses and runs; one scratching shed house; put up heavy wire fence around the farm; painted every house, fence post, etc., and whitewashed the inside of the houses, besides planting a large strawberry bed, building a large wood and coal house, attending to the poultry, and doing other chores.

The new scratching shed house is completed. This was the bill of lumber, with our (Hammon-ton) prices, which are much higher than in the west or south.

1 piece 4x4, 14 foot Hemlock	\$1.77
4 pieces 4x4, 16 foot Hemlock	
7 pieces 2x3, 16 foot Hemlock	
6 pieces 2x3, 14 foot Hemlock	
6 pieces 2x3, 12 foot Hemlock	
120 foot shingling lath	.72
2 8x10 window sash	1.10
476 foot hemlock boards	9.05
342 foot matched white pine boards	6.84
252 foot 5-8th yellow pine boards	3.28
60 brick	.66
10 cedar rails	1.00
1 bundle lath	.35
26 foot shingling lath, extra	.16

Total,	\$27.61
Nails, hinges, locks, etc., and Neponset, ..	5.00
Cabot's Insulating Quilt	1.00
Wire netting and staples	4.50
Paint	1.26

Making a total of entire expense, \$39.37

The house is built with the white pine boards, and the roof laid with hemlock boards, covered with Neponset roofing paper. The building is 32 feet long; 7 feet wide; 6 feet high in front; 4 feet high in back—the roof being a slant. The roosting pens are in the center of the house, each measuring 6x7 feet; and on each side of the roosting pens are the scratching sheds, 10x7 feet. The front of the scratching sheds are covered with one inch wire netting, in which is made a door about two feet four inches wide, to enter the shed. On the floor of the roosting pen, half-inch wire netting is used to keep out rats.

The partitions between the roosting pens and scratching sheds are made of 5-8th yellow pine. The inside of the roosting pens has a double wall (5-8th yellow pine being used for the inner wall), and Cabot's Insulating Quilt is used between these walls. Of this Quilt we cannot speak too highly. It is better than anything we ever used for making a warm wall, and one that is frost proof. A two foot door leads from the scratching shed to the roosting pen, and in this door we have a small door made of wire mosquito netting, which we close at night and open the next morning to allow the hens to get into the scratching shed.

The dropping platforms were made from the white pine odds and ends left over. The roosts are 2x3 scantling, planed. The brick mentioned in the bill above were used as pillars under the sills. Then we dug a trench all around the house, and put down a one foot hemlock board (six inches under ground, and six inches above). This completes the appearance, besides prevents rats, etc., from knowing through. Rats have an aversion to hemlock boards on account of the splinters. The shingling lath were used for door and gate frames. We did not use more than half of the bundle of lath, using them for battens on the roof, etc.

We used five foot wire on the outside fencing of the yards, burying one foot in the ground. The middle fence, dividing the two yards, is made of two feet of hemlock boards, and three feet of wire above that. Each run measures 16x50 feet, for fifteen fowls.

The entire building, fence posts, and base boards of the dividing fence, we have painted with our usual red paint (made with red ochre and linseed oil). After whitewashing the inside of the house, the hens were introduced to their new home.

Besides attending to the stock, it took our man about two weeks to build this house complete. He could have done the work, we believe, in about ten days, had he no other work to do.

BONE CUTTER. Mann's small size, good as new, \$3.00. P. O. Box 47, Glendale, L. I., N. Y.

FOR SALE or exchange No. 8 Mann bone cutter in perfect order. C. E. Olcott, Crown Pt., N. Y.

GREAT BARGAIN. Photographer's complete outfit. Write. D. S. KAYS, Youngsville, N. Y.

JAMES W. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Pa.
Breeder of sixteen leading varieties of Poultry. Eggs \$1.00 per 15; \$3.00 per 60. Catalogue Free.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. The general purpose fowl of the day—meat and eggs. **LIGHT BRAHMAS,** "Duke of York" strain. Cockerels of both at low prices, and Brahma pullets to spare at reasonable prices. J. H. FLEMING, Dunellen, N. J.

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.
December 1, 1897, 1st, 3rd, 5th
cockerels. 1st, 4th, 5th, pullets.
1st pen on 8 entries Buff Leghorns.
Eggs, \$3.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 26.

L. S. BACHE, Box D,
BOUND BROOK, N. J.

The Evans root cutter, manufactured by the Evans Manufacturing Company, Ypsilanti, Mich., mentioned in last issue, came safely to hand, and has already been put to good use. The first test was made with cabbage. We first chopped the head into large pieces, and then put them into the cutter. The machine cut up the entire lot in shreds, just right for mixing in our duck feed. Then potatoes, onions, beets, turnips, etc., were used, and we did the work quicker and better than in any other way that we ever tried. Hens relish raw potatoes and other roots, when cut up to a size that they can easily eat them. Chopped onions is a dish that fowls not only like, but they are of special benefit to them. But to cut up a lot of them with a knife, will almost smart a man's eyes out of their sockets. Placed in this cutter, we could cut all day without getting the strength of the onion in our eyes. Roots, too, cut in this manner are more quickly boiled, besides more evenly mix through the mash. We advise all poultrymen to write the firm, as above, for further particulars.

In reply to an inquiry, would say that the lamps on posts, as shown in one of the illustrations in December issue, are the same as are used on the streets in small towns. Before we had them, the ducks, being very nervous, would scare at every sound or shadow they saw. But after having the premises lit up at night, there was no further trouble. There is not much expense attached to this, and it is worth all it costs to have the ducks quiet and contented at night. Excitable and scary ducks, like hens, are not good egg producers.

Edwin Snelgrove, 130 Fulton St., N. Y. Prize Winning Blue Andalusians and Light Brahmas.

CUT CLOVER in sacks, \$1.00 for 100 pounds. I. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

CUT CLOVER HAY
\$2.00 per 100 pounds. 50 pounds, \$1.10.
Best on the market. Send for circular.
WOODHID FARM, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.

Poultry Supplies

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Fancy Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

FRED. G. ORR & CO.,

Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

OYSTER SHELL

100 lbs. prepaid to R. R. stations in Conn., .85
100 lbs. prepaid to R. R. stations in Mass., .95
100 lbs. prepaid to R. R. stations in N. Y., \$1.00
Liberal Discount for Quantities.

First one of each 25 to answer this ad. will receive as premium, Farm-Poultry one year.

C. R. RUSSELL, Waterbury, Conn.

IT'S EASILY HANDLED A CHILD OPERATES THE PALACE INCUBATOR



30 DAYS FREE TRIAL BEFORE BUYING.
WE PAY THE FREIGHT.
OUR CATALOGUE EXPLAINS ALL. WRITE FOR IT.
ADDRESS TO **PALACE INCUBATOR CO.**
BOX 119. **MERRIAM PARK, MINN.**

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Fertility in Winter—Soft Shelled Eggs—Too Fat Hens—Business White Wyandottes—The More Sunshine the More Eggs—Keeping Up a Constant Flow of Eggs.

Keep the layers quiet.

Sunshine is an egg tonic.

The prices are declining.

You can't get eggs by starvation.

Turn the cheap eggs into chickens.

Eggs \$17 per dozen in Alaska! Golly!

Contented hens are the most profitable.

Overfeeding and overcrowding prevents fertility

You can kill the egg record by too much kindness.

Darkened nests are best. They prevent the egg-eating habit.

Don't neglect your retail trade, no matter how low prices drop.

Ordinary scouring soap is excellent for removing stains from eggs.

D. A. Mount says winter fertility should be between 50 and 75 per cent.

J. E. Stevenson says he has received as high as 90 per cent fertility in mid-winter.

Wm. H. Truslow says clover hay and green feed improves the fertility of the winter egg.

There is a great risk in buying eggs to help out your orders. How are you going to guarantee them?

The time is near at hand when 200-egg hens will be as common as great butter-record cows. We are each year breeding more up to it.

Rankin says 80 to 85 per cent of fertile eggs is a fair average in winter from hens confined. We think such an average is unusually great.

Prof. Cushman says too many keep a "beef breed" of poultry because it produces brown eggs. But brown eggs and "beef" are in demand.

The productive age of the egg-laying breeds is longer than that of the meat breeds, according to Prof. Cushman, but the fowls are not so hardy.

Swedish eggs are small, weighing from 13 to 15 pounds per case of 120 eggs. The average price of these eggs in England is about 18 1-2 cents per dozen.

When Mr. Collingwood, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says the December eggs cost 10 cents each, he does not show that his "black beauties" are profitable layers.

Samuel Cushman, in *Rural New-Yorker*, writes that he is satisfied that, in order to get the best results in eggs, regardless of fertility, a hen should be fed so that the droppings would be soft.

Charles K. Nelson, Hamonton, N. J., sends A FEW HENS the record of 171 eggs for the month of December, for eight White Wyandotte pullets hatched in spring. This is an average of 21 3-8th eggs per hen.

Hens lay better in January than they did in December, on account, first of the weather not being so changeable; second, they have more completely gotten over their moult. This has no reference to pullets.

The *Poultry Chum* says the fact is very suggestive that the egg supply falls off most rapidly when the days are shortening, and is smallest always during the months when the hours of sunshine are the fewest.

When hens become too fat they are apt to go on the nest and remain there for some time without laying an egg. This condition is apt to bring on cases of egg bound. W. E. D., Mechanicsville, Ohio, will no doubt find that the above is a fact with his hens.

"If a hen lays soft-shelled eggs, as they are liable to do this time of year," says Texas *Farm and Ranch*, "separate them and feed carefully and sparingly for a few days until the digestive apparatus becomes normal and active—nature will do the rest." We know of a better remedy than that. Feed cooked or scalded cut clover hay in the morning mash, and always have a box of crushed oyster shells within reach of the fowls.

Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., who is breeding business White Wyandottes (as advertised in A FEW HENS) had been getting so many eggs from his early-hatched pullets that he thought he would stamp his name and address on them and start a retail trade. It brought inquiries from all around, and he was immediately swamped with orders. Mr. Child has four large pens ready for business, the pullets weighing from 6 to 6 1-2 pounds each.

A stimulating food is necessary to keep up a constant flow of eggs, says the *American Stock-Keeper*. After the necessary support which the body requires, the extra stimulus goes to develop the production of eggs, one of which is usually detached from the ovary each day, and slips into the oviduct or egg sack, where it becomes full sized, and the shell is formed and hardened. The hen does not carry the egg long after it is once perfected.

About Broilers and Roasters.

The "Philadelphia" Product—The Broiler Market is Open—Feeds that Whiten the Flesh—Theodore Sternberg's Practical Remarks on the Roasting Fowl.

"Philadelphia" capons are famous.

"Philadelphia" poultry lead in the eastern markets.

Charcoal fed fattening chickens is apt to whiten the flesh.

"Philadelphia" broilers are principally a New Jersey product.

New Jersey broilers are classed as gilt-edged in the Boston market.

Feeding buckwheat to fattening poultry will produce a white-fleshed carcass.

The Black Java is for roasting purposes what the White Wyandotte is for broiling.

The roasting fowl is king in France and England—the broiler being of least importance.

Get out all the chicks possible this month if you want to reach good prices for broilers.

James Rankin feeds gluten meal as a part of the regular ration, for high color of flesh and skin.

As it is best to hatch the breeding stock in April, all chickens hatched before that time should be raised and fattened for market.

The frames of capons should be already well grown, says *Farm Journal*. Corn and milk judiciously used will round them out and "ripen" the crop for market.

The Indian Game or the White Wyandotte (males) crossed on Light Brahma females, give a most valuable roasting fowl. The latter cross is especially valuable from an egg standpoint.

Referring to roasting fowls, Theodore Sternberg says: "The fowl which is served whole, and is to be carved before the guests are served, is the most important of all fowls for consumption. No spread is complete without the roast fowl. The cook's triumphs are here."

The true table fowl is long in the body, wide in the back, full in the breast, and plump over the keel—meaty all over. Taking its legs as a center, there must be more body in front of the legs than behind. The shape is a parallelogram. It may be carried more or less uprightly, depending on the breed.

Tender chickens, rough chickens, tender roasts and tough roasts, are not so much a question of breed as of care, feed and age. It is just as it is in human beings, says Mr. Sternberg. Exercise hardens the muscles; so a chicken which comes on the table fresh from the field of exercise, with muscles toughened by hunting for a living, must be tough. The continental people know this. With them table poultry is fattened for the table, not trained.

It is singular, but it is true, that in our country yellow legs control most purchasers of fowls for the table in their selections, says Mr. Sternberg. The shape of the body which comes on the table is ignored in favor of the color of the legs, which are cut off and become offal. It is a truth that there exists no breed of fowls bred for table poultry in all the long list of American productions, save one; and in the wide world there is no distinctive table fowl with yellow legs. American lovers of roast fowl must give up their fancy for yellow legs or forego the choicest of table poultry. The yellow leg business is a nonsensical fancy. The uneducated gourmand who calls for yellow-legged chickens would never think of calling for yellow-legged quail or turkey, or canvasback duck. The choicest of all our wild game fowl do not have yellow legs.



The Premier Green Bone Cutter

is fitted with BALL BEARINGS, which now makes Cutting Green Bones for fowls a very easy matter. *Elegant illustrated catalogue, telling all about it, for stamp.*

P. A. WEBSTER, . . . Box . . . CAZENOVIA, N. Y.



HATCH CHICKENS EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR.

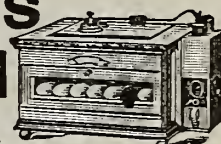
Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other Hatcher.

GEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturers,

Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 28 egg capacity.

Catalogue free.

114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.



THE STAR INCUBATOR.

(Invention of G. A. MCFETRIDGE.)

Perfect in Regulation, Ventilation and Radiation.

Catalogue Free.

STAR INCUBATOR and BROODER CO., Bound Brook, N. J.



MANN'S GREEN BONE CUTTERS

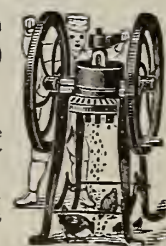
and MANN'S Granite Crystal GRIT

Are two great egg makers. They prove the triumph of science over guesswork. Success is certain. Hens will lay twice as many eggs when fed on green bone and grit.



SWINGING FEED TRAY FOR POULTRY.

MANN'S SWINGING FEED TRAY for poultry will save its cost in waste food alone. Hens cannot scratch food out of it, nor dirt into it, nor roost on it. We sell for cash or instalments. F.W. MANN CO., Milford, Mass.



WHITE AND SILVER WYANDOTTE EGGS.

\$2.00 FOR 13.
WM. H. CHILD, Glenside, Pa.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, monthly Three Cents.

By the year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,
PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

One half cent per agate line for each 1000 copies, as printed monthly. Therefore the rate may vary each issue, as the circulation is increased. This will make the price 5 cents per line for 10,000; and 10 cents a line for 20,000, etc.

About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

With the March issue, our 30,000 editions will end, and our guarantee will be modified to *not less than 20,000 copies each issue*. The rates for advertising in the March number will be 15 cts. per line. But for the spring and summer issues a charge of but ten cts. per line, each time, will be made. The thousands of sample copies sent all over the United States has made for us a subscription list that few poultry publications can boast of.

By carefully studying our advertising pages it will be seen that the patronage has been having a steady growth from the start. This, too, without any special effort being made to secure patronage in that line.

To insure insertion in the March number, copy and order for advertising must reach the publication office (Boston) by the fifth of the month.

One of the best proofs that advertising in A FEW HENS pays, is this unsolicited testimonial from W. R. Curtiss & Co., proprietors of Niagara Farm, Ransomville, N. Y.:

"We find A FEW HENS a first-class advertising medium. Our first order paid our advertising bill for 6 months, and we have received an average of three inquiries a day since the advertisement first appeared. A FEW HENS pays as well as any of our ten advertising mediums. We are more than pleased. Let the good work go on."

The mails continue to bring us kind words: Editor Downs says in the *Southern Fancier*:

"We hardly pick up an exchange these days but what we see an article credited to A FEW HENS, M. K. Boyer's meaty little poultry journal. This does not surprise us, however, for if any one is capable of giving the poultry fraternity a feast of good things it is Uncle Mike."

Editor Holmes, in *Poultry Monthly*, says: "A FEW HENS is the kernal of the nut, with husk and shell removed. It's worth a dollar, and we give it to you for nothing but the asking."

To prove that he means every word of it, Editor Holmes continues:

"We all like to have a little added to our full measure when buying, as an encouragement to come again, and as a sign that the tradesman appreciates our business. We appreciate subscriptions and subscribers. In proof of this, we offer A FEW HENS, free to any subscriber who orders it when sending in subscription to *Poultry Monthly* for one year, with \$1.00, whether renewal or new."

There—that's generous if anything is. But Editor Holmes cannot get ahead of us. If our readers will send us the dollar, we'll do the same thing. The *Monthly* is one of the oldest, best printed, best edited, poultry publications in the country, devoted to both the fancy and practical sides of poultry culture. Send 12 cts. to Ferris Publishing Co., 310 Broadway, Albany, N. Y., for a sample copy.

In the same issue of the *Monthly*, the editor has this to say:

"Editor Boyer gives us views of his home and poultry plant in the last issue of A FEW HENS, December 15, 1897. We will gamble to the extent of a big red apple that he is taking lots of comfort and pleasure, with work enough from day to day to keep him from getting rusty. What a place for a hammock and a pipe on that piazza after the day's work is done!"

Hadn't Editor Holmes better try the piazza, the hammock and the pipe himself, some day the coming summer? We would try to make his visit pleasant.

W. H. Hardin, manager of Cumberland Poultry farm, New Tazewell, Tenn., writes:

"With no attempt at flattery, I wish to say that A FEW HENS is decidedly the brightest, spiciest and most interesting poultry publication that it has been our pleasure to receive. It is brim full of practical chicken chatter, and you may count on us as one of your number of regular subscribers."

"We have adopted your 4x4 ft. duck houses (for breeding pens of ducks) altogether, on our plant, and find them just the thing. We believe as you do, that we will get better results from our ducks, especially so as regards increased fertility of eggs."

Those 4x4 ft. houses are meeting with favor wherever tried. Visitors, as a rule, take full dimensions of them, and we are constantly in receipt of praise by those who have put these style houses in practical use. We, too, find them to "be just the thing."

R. W. Davison, of the editorial staff of the *Agricultural Epitomist*, Glendola, N. J., has this part way of putting things:

"Your A FEW HENS seems to be advancing nicely. But with such a cock at the head of the flock, great things were to be expected, and no one is disappointed. Success to you, Uncle, and may the HENS soon deposit in your hat the golden egg—I suppose silver will do?"

Yes, silver will do; eggs in the shape of silver quarters will feed A FEW HENS a whole year. Now listen while we crow!

Mrs. Jas. R. Barr, Indiana, writes: "You deserve a great deal of credit for such a spicy little paper as A FEW HENS. It is small in size, but large in contents."

J. J. Brennan, New York, writes: "Your paper, A FEW HENS, and the two books 'Broilers for Profit' and 'A Living From Poultry', received. I have read them with interest, and prize them highly. They are just what I want, and have been looking for, as I get from them information of great value."

Mrs. John McLennan, Long Island, writes: "I am very much pleased with A FEW HENS, and have learned a great deal from it. I find the paper good for reference. Every day I look over them and always find something to help me along in making a living."

The Bennett & Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y., of Pioneer Clover Meal fame, write: "Your idea of the Experimental Farm was a novel and laudable one. We are confident you will convince a large number of people of the great profit in poultry raising."

L. P. Chapin, New York, writes: "A FEW HENS is very valuable. I read and reread each copy."

T. H. Olmstead, Arkansas, writes that he is more than pleased with A FEW HENS.

D. W. Lawton, Connecticut, writes: "We think a great deal of A FEW HENS, for we know it to come from a reliable source."

James Rankin, South Easton, Mass., the duck king, says A FEW HENS is a "spicy little journal." There is a volume of good cheer in those few words.

A FEW HENS does not deal in the fancy, but it wants to "step aside" long enough to say that in the election of Uncle Isaac Felch to the Presidency of the American Poultry Association, an act was performed that not only was a great credit to the fraternity, but which will heal a breach that has for years caused much trouble. Mr. Felch deserves the honor; he has lived a life of usefulness in the poultry world; and, no matter how they may differ in opinions, all poultrymen admit that the "sage of Natick" deserves all the praise that can be given him. He has been instrumental, to a certain degree, in making poultry culture in America successful, and the unanimous vote given was a high testimonial of his good work.

Again, the American Poultry Association is to be congratulated on securing the services of J. H. Drevenstedt to edit the new Standard. Not only is Mr. Drevenstedt admirably fitted for the work as editor, but as a thorough fancier and judge he will be able to remedy the defects that have appeared in some of the former editions.

Both Mr. Felch and Mr. Drevenstedt have the utility cause at heart, and in all their work as fanciers have emphasized the fact that to neglect the utility part is to destroy the breed. Surely the "bumptious individuals" (as editor Howard has seen fit to style the utility men) have cause for rejoicing in the selection of Isaac and John.

The following letter from Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., explains itself:

"A FEW HENS says that November-hatched chicks take the cream of the broiler prices. Do you mean this to refer to the Philadelphia or the New York market? The best price quoted in Philadelphia, last year, was April 21st, and surely it would not be necessary to hatch chickens in November to have them weigh one and a half pounds by the last of April. I am not familiar with the New York prices, but suppose their market is somewhat different from Philadelphia."

We are glad that Mr. Child has called our attention to the squib. What we intended to say was the *January*-hatched chicks, as they would be about right for the April markets. April is generally the best month for prices. New York is a better broiler market than Philadelphia, but all stock must be sent dressed, which is not the case in Philadelphia.

The *American Agriculturist* gives these encouraging figures: During ten months of 1897, imports of eggs were only 150,000 dozen, compared with 570,000 dozen same period in 1896, and many times that number in earlier years, when the duty was three cents per dozen, against the present rate of five cents. Ten months' exports of eggs—2,083,000 dozen, against only 335,000 dozen in 1896, a phenomenal and hopeful increase.

G. P. Reynaud, in an address before the Farmers' Club of the American Institute, New York city, declared that most farmers were not willing to invest the amount necessary to secure thoroughbreds, but that they might be induced to secure one good male and grade up their common fowls. Also, he maintained, that for the farmers' purpose, high grades or common crosses would prove more advantageous than thoroughbreds, the introduction of foreign blood resulting in increased vitality.

Mrs. W. H., Sudbury, Mass., writes that her pullets, hatched in May and June are moulting and wants to know if we ever heard of such cases. The first year a chicken is continually shedding feathers—not a genuine moult, but a gradual changing of coat. Probably that is what her pullets were doing. The second year they seldom drop feathers until in the fall, when they have a season of about three months, in which time they get rid of the old coat and take on an entirely new one.

Ducks and Ducklings.

Hints that Are in Season—Pointers About Feeding—James Rankin Writes a few Words to A FEW HENS.

Bed heavily.

The Pekin still leads.

It is a mistake to feed much whole grain.

Never excite the ducks during laying season.

Clean up the droppings from the runs once a week.

The laying of the young duck is irregular at first.

The duck feed should be neither too dry nor too sloppy.

January and February hatched ducks come in for good prices.

One hour after feeding, remove all food remaining in the trough.

Shake up the bedding every day or two, and remove the manure.

Ducks kept on land must be watered three times a day, the year around.

Thoroughly clean the water trough each time before giving fresh water.

Do not wash the duck eggs. Remove the dirt by wiping with a dry rag.

There is no danger of a glut in the market of plump and finely dressed ducklings.

Grit, the size as used for young chicks, should be mixed with the mash once a day.

Small vs. large families—that's the present test on the experimental farm of A FEW HENS.

During cold weather it is better to house the ducks at night, than to allow them out doors.

During snowy or icy weather, throw bedding in part of the run so as to prevent the duck from getting cold feet.

Steamed or cooked cut clover hay, is a choice dish when mixed with ground grain, for both old and young ducks.

Rankin runs his temperature in incubator for duck eggs, at 102 degrees the first three weeks; 103 degrees the fourth week, and 104 degrees when the ducklings are about to hatch.

After repeated experiments on the farm of A FEW HENS, we find that a duck will consume, on an average, eight ounces of mash in the morning, and twelve ounces at night.

James Rankin, South Easton, Mass., writes A FEW HENS, under date of January 24th: "We are very busy just now filling orders for ducks and eggs; so much so that I fear our stock will not hold out long. We made a good thing of the duck business last year. Eggs were very fertile and hatched well, while the mortality among our birds was insignificant. The prices ruled, and grain being low, made it an unusually good season. The present season seems to be fully as promising, as our birds began laying earlier than ever before. We have 300 ducklings out, and more coming every day or two. It looks to us as if the poultry growers have as good a chance to secure their share of bread and butter as their competitors in any other department in life."

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Barley and Oats as a Wheat Substitute—Tests Made by the New York Agricultural Experiment Station With Whole and Ground Grain—Egg Food.

Don't feed frozen cabbage.

"Variety" is an egg secret.

Better too little than too much.

Never throw soft feed on the ground.

Feed according to the object desired.

Oats and buckwheat are good egg grains.

Clover in any form is a good poultry food.

"Little and often" is a good rule in feeding.

Millet is a good grain for scratching purposes.

A patch of artichokes will furnish excellent greens for poultry.

A teaspoonful of salt to a pail of mash is the proper proportion.

Fattening food for fat; egg food for eggs. You cannot reverse them.

Heating the whole grain before feeding makes it more acceptable in winter.

Owing to the high price of wheat, barley is more generally used by poultrymen.

Green bone is rich in nitrogen and albumen, and carbonates and phosphates of lime, all the essentials for manufacturing eggs. It is a complete food.

On the experimental farm of A FEW HENS, a hen will eat, on an average, three ounces of the morning mash; two ounces of grain at noon; and four ounces of grain at night.

According to the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, the cost of food, per chick, to weigh one pound, on ground grain, is three cents; on whole grain, three and seven-tenth cents.

From a dietary standpoint, the use of cooked roots is recommended, and they will enable the farmer to feed more hens and get more eggs with little or no additional cost, says *Farm and Fireside*.

For stimulating egg production, skim milk may be worth a cent per quart, or about twice its value of feeding to young calves, says the *Massachusetts Ploughman*. It is next to fresh meat for starting hens to laying in late fall or winter. Milk may be given either alone or mixed with grain or boiled vegetables.

There is more albumen in a pound of meat than a bushel of corn, says the *American Poultry Advocate*, and yet people persist in feeding corn, and getting the hens so fat they can't lay, or else supplying them with so little nitrogenous food that they have not the proper materials of which to make eggs if they want to.

G. E. Littlefield says in *Farm and Home*: Green bone is not a stimulant, and consequently there is no unhealthy reaction from its use as a diet. It is just simply a perfect food, and also a very economical food. I consider it the cheapest food I can buy. I also find the eggs more fertile and the chickens more vigorous when it is used.

After making repeated tests in feeding, the New York Agricultural Experiment Station says: The ground grain ration proved considerably more profitable than the whole grain ration with the growing chicks; and the same was true of capons of equal weight from these chicks, and from others of equal weight and age, fed alike before caponizing. No difference was noticed in health or vigor of chicks or capons fed either ration.

A correspondent in *Rural New-Yorker* says: "When meat or blood meal, linseed (oil cake), or cooked meat is given them in their soft food once a day, or when green cut bone is used instead, I believe that barley serves the same purpose for fowls as wheat would. I use by preference Beardless barley. Young chicks will learn to like this very soon. I crack it in the beginning for a few weeks; when four weeks old they eat it whole."

Dr. G. M. Twitchell recommends as a food for laying fowls, a mixture of 25 pounds of oats, 25 pounds of wheat bran, 25 pounds of wheat, ground together, to which he adds 10 pounds linseed meal, and 5 pounds of meat scraps. He mixes three quarts of this in a ten quart bucketful of cooked vegetables, or of clover hay chopped and steamed. This is for the morning meal, and for the other two meals he gives whole corn or wheat.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Preventive Measures—A Few Simple Remedies—Are White Breeds Hardy?

Begin fighting lice now.

Hardy parents beget hardy offspring.

Fresh air and exercise are the best tonics.

Scatter air-slaked lime about the hen house.

Idleness is no disease—but it leads on to such.

Frosted combs should be well rubbed with vaseline.

The art of Prevention is greater than the art of Cure.

Too fat is no disease—but it is not a healthy condition.

Keep the drinking vessels clean; disease lurks in filthy water fountains.



Cackling and Crowing

are music to a poultryman—they indicate prosperity.

They herald an abundance of eggs and healthy fowls, and follow the use of

The **H-O** Co.'s
Poultry Feed

Remember, too, the H-O Co.'s Scratching Feed for Poultry a night feed—an exercising feed.

Send for literature.

THE H-O COMPANY, New York City.

The cry of "cholera" is the greatest in sections where corn is the chief diet.

A little bromide of potassium in the drinking water is recommended in cases of roup.

Gathering the eggs several times during the day, will have a tendency to prevent egg-eating.

Bathing with salt water, and then anointing with carbolized vaseline, is said to be a sure cure for sore head.

A teaspoonful of kerosene in the drinking water, several days in succession, will cure sneezing and other symptoms of colds.

Salt aids in the performance of the various functions of the body, as digesting the food and its absorption of the blood.

Equal parts of gin and molasses put into a bottle, and well shaken before using, is given as an excellent tonic and a preventative of colds and roup.

We agree with some writers that a well fowl needs no medicine, but that does not excuse a breeder from allowing the first symptoms of sickness to develop into disease.

Tar water is recommended as a good preventive for the spreading of roup. Stir about a pint of tar in two gallons of water, and decant off the clean water for the fowls to drink.

Muriate tincture of iron is an excellent spring tonic for the old fowls. Put it in their drinking water—just enough to give the water a dark straw color. It wards off disease.

A correspondent in *Poultry Keeper* gives this simple remedy for limber neck: Dissolve a teaspoonful of sugar in a wine glass of water, and squirt a lot of the mixture down the throat of the afflicted fowl.

The statement that "white breeds are not hardy", is without foundation. We need only point to the Brahmas, Wyandottes and Leghorns to prove that color of plumage has nothing to do with the constitutions of the breed.

The *Southern Poultry Journal* gives this canker or roup cure: Mix 12 drops carbolic acid, one teaspoonful laudanum, 10 cents worth of sugar of lead, 5 cents worth of sulphate of zinc, one pint of water; shake well. Open up the nose with a broom straw, and with a small glass syringe inject into the chicken's nose three times a day, and put 8 or 10 drops in the mouth. Feed soft bran and give plenty of water.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Timely Hints on Running Incubators and Brooders—Keeping Eggs for Hatching—J. L. Campbell's Method for Determining the Moisture in Eggs.

Good eggs, good chicks.

Stale eggs, weak chicks.

Strictly follow directions.

Fresh eggs, strong chicks.

Chilled eggs will not hatch.

Low temperature, slow hatch.

High temperature, quick hatch.

Again, don't overcrowd the brooders.

A uniform lot of eggs give best results.

Are you sure the thermometer is correct?

Don't build air castles on your first hatch.

Don't get excited—it won't help the hatch.

Fill the lamps in the evening, before dark.

All hot water tanks should be made of copper.

The incubators should be going at full blast now.

Scrape the charred wick each time you fill the lamp.

Visitors must be content to look through the glass doors.

Remember the chicks in the brooders must be made to exercise.

Remove the chill from the drinking water by adding hot water.

The farmer is generally too careless in gathering eggs for hatching.

See that the bulb of the thermometer is at all times on the same level.

Chicks in brooders must have grit and charcoal before them at all times.

Buying eggs at the store for hatching, is a costly way to run the incubator.

Put up a sign on the door: "No Smoking allowed in the Incubator Room."

Trying to run an incubator in a foul-scented cellar is running against great odds.

Remember the incubator man does not supply brains with each machine he sells.

Eggs for hatching should be kept in a temperature varying from 50 to 70 degrees.

Because you failed to make good hatches, it was not, necessarily, the incubator's fault.

Incubator-hatched chicks are free from lice. Do not quarter them near grown fowls.

After the eggs begin to pip, keep the incubator doors closed. This is highly important.

Too high a temperature in the brooder will cause the chicks to "steam," resulting in loss.

In our experience, the hot air incubators are easier to regulate than the hot water ones.

Always run the machine several days before putting in the eggs, so as to test the workings.

It is better to start the temperature in the incubator low and gradually increase, than to reverse it.

Never try to run the incubator in a room that is heated up during the day, and allowed to cool off at night.

Do not forget the fact that hatching in winter is battling against nature's methods, and the results are never so good as during the warmer months of spring.

EGGS from B. P. Rocks and White Wyandottes. Brod for layers. F. E. Bancroft, Groveland, N. Y.

White Wyandotte Eggs from the best large, fine, prolific stock. \$1.50 per 13; \$2.50 per 26; \$3.00 per 39. Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

SKUNK. I buy all kinds of FURS. Write for prices. J. I. GLEED, dealer in Raw Furs and Ginseng, East Aurora, N. Y.

EGGS from prolific laying stock. Barred Plymouth Rocks and S. C. White Leghorns. \$1.00 per 15. "Square dealing" my motto. FRANK C. BURDICK, Rockville, R. I.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Great layers; Large size; Vigorous stock; Farm raised; Some of them are non setters; Winners at New York show last season. Cocks, Hens and Chicks for sale. W. H. SHUTE, Middletown, Conn.

EGGS for hatching. Strictly Pure W. Wyandotte and W. P. Rocks. 500 grand birds. Average egg production 200 each per year. \$1 per 13; \$4 per 100. WEEKS & THOMPSON, Peterboro, N. H.



Pioneer Clover Meal is pure clover hay, ground fine by a new process. We use nothing but pure clover, which is the greatest known egg maker. By the use of our meal, hens will lay all winter. It is not cut clover; there is no waste in its use. Send for free sample and book, giving the endorsements of all the leading poultry editors. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25 cts., in sacks. Ask your dealer for it.

The Bennett & Millett Co.,
Gouverneur, N. Y.

E. B. Underhill, in *Rural New-Yorker*, considers starting the eggs rather low, and gradually working the temperature up, the most vital point connected with artificial incubation.

The *Reliable Poultry Journal* advises, for washing out the egg chamber, trays and turning rack, if they are soiled or musty, to use hot water, into which a liberal amount of baking soda has been mixed.

The man who opposes cooling the eggs in the incubator, has never explained the effect upon the eggs under the hen which are at times exposed for an hour while she is off the nest eating, drinking and dusting herself.

The incubator has nothing whatever to do with the contents of the egg. It cannot change that, says *Iowa Homestead*. If the breeding stock were hardy and vigorous, and well cared for, the incubator will bring forth as strong chicks, and equally as well formed, as will the hen.

The *Reliable Poultry Journal* gives this method for keeping eggs for hatching: A good plan is to pack the eggs in boxes containing oats, bran or dry sawdust, filling the box full and screwing on a cover. You can now turn the eggs by simply turning the box half way over. The common way is to stand the eggs on end when packing them. It does not make any difference which end.

J. L. Campbell, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, gives this method for determining the moisture in eggs: Try them in warm water at the end of two weeks. If they sink they are too moist. If they just float they are a little too moist. If they float high they are too dry, but if they float with a space which could be covered with a silver twenty-five cent piece, they just suit me. This will be the average only, as some will be less and some a little more. Less is better than more. This is a reliable test in all cases, and one can prove it by trying it long enough and often enough. If the eggs float as stated, and a poor hatch results, the trouble must be looked for elsewhere. It will usually be found in the temperature."

We have some good

Pekin Drakes

(no ducks) for sale, and we are offering them at \$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.00 and \$5.00 each. It makes no difference which price you pay you will get your money's worth. If after receiving them you think differently, we will buy them back again.

A. J. HALLOCK,
Atlantic Farm, Speonk, L. I., N. Y.

Madison Square Winners.

We have for sale at a low price, Exhibition and Breeding Barred and Wh. Rocks, Rose and S. C. B. Legh's, Bl. Langshans, (Robinson) Wh. Wyandottes, (Dustin) Bl. Minorcas, S. C. W. Legh's, Lt. Brahmas, Belgian Hares. W. W. KULP, POTTSTOWN, PA.

OUR SPECIALTY—S. L. WYANDOTTES.

We bought cockerel and several pullets from noted S. L. Wyandotte specialist. Have made up yard of fine birds. Will sell eggs at low price of \$1.25 per 13. BONE, \$1.65 per 100 lbs.
JONAS CULLAR, East Lewiston, Ohio.

Whitney's Super-Carbolate of Lime. The old reliable insecticide and disinfectant Powder. Of special value for use in stable, dog kennels, and poultry houses. No vermin will live where used.

I have used this preparation in my henneries for the past two seasons and find that it fully equals the claims that you make for it. Its free use in the nest boxes obviates almost entirely any necessity for direct application to the fowls, while its use on the platforms completely neutralizes all unpleasant odors.
R. H. COWLES, Wallingford, Conn.

Send for Circulars. E. WHITNEY & CO., Natick, Mass.

POSITIVE MONEY MAKERS
THE NEW STYLE SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR AND BROODER. Our NEW CATALOGUE and BOOK on POULTRY tells all about them and many OTHER THINGS the poultry man should know; worth a dollar but we send it for 6c. in stamps. Address the **Des Moines Incubator Co.** Box Des Moines, Iowa.

Sitting Hens and Little Chicks.

Pointers on Early Incubation and Brooding in the Natural Way.

- Never grease a sitting hen.
- Never force a hen on the nest.
- Have a regular hour for feeding.
- Always handle broody hens gently.
- A cross hen generally makes the best sitter.
- At once clean the befouled eggs in the nest.
- The February and March hen must have a warm nest.
- The most savage hen can be tamed by kind treatment.
- It pays better to set the broody hens than to break them up.
- Use a woollen rag, dampened in warm water, to clean smeared eggs.
- To break up a broody hen, place her in a coop alone for several days.
- The latter part of this month is a good time to set hens on Asiatic eggs.
- The early-hatched chicks should have a large pen to exercise in during bad weather.
- The hen that sticks close to the nest will give the best results during cold weather.
- In cleaning eggs, always hold them still, as rough treatment may destroy the germ.
- Barrels, laid on their sides, and placed in a shed or outhouse, make good, warm nests.
- Never use nesting material that has seed in it, or the hens may start scratching in the nest.
- C. Y. W., New Jersey, will find more harm than good coming from sprinkling eggs during incubation.
- Whole corn, sharp grit, granulated charcoal and fresh water, is the proper bill of fare during incubation.
- Nests must be large, so the hens can turn completely around without rubbing against the sides of the box.
- Study the nature of the sitting hen. If she is of a nervous nature, do not visit the nest oftener than is necessary.
- During cold weather, fifteen eggs can be given the hen, if a test is made at the end of a week, so that the infertile eggs can be removed.
- It is best to set two or three hens at one time. Then at the end of the week test the eggs and give the fertile ones to one or two of the hens, resetting the extra bird, if desired.
- Keep a record of the kind of hen you set, date of setting, number of eggs given, kind of eggs, date of test, infertile rejected, number of chicks hatched, and number of deaths while the hen is brooding them. This explains the sitting qualities of the hen, the fertility of the eggs, and the vitality of the stock.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS, About People We Know.

- The *Southern Fancier* is again a monthly.
- W. J. Andrus, of Hackensack, N. J., a noted poultry breeder, has gone to Klondike.
- The *New England Fancier* has resumed its old size and style. It is a mighty interesting monthly.
- A. A. Skinner, Greene, Chenango Co., N. Y., is offering a new incubator and brooder, known as the Ideal.
- F. L. Rogers has severed his connection with the *Practical Poultryman*, as editor, to accept a similar position on the *American Fancier*.
- Vick's Garden and Floral Guide for 1898, is the handsomest seed catalogue we have seen this year. Address, James Vick's Sons, Rochester, N. Y.

The Ninth Annual Report of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experimental Station, has been received. The goose reports are especially valuable, which we will note in a subsequent issue.

A. F. Cooper, of the Prairie State Incubator Co., writes: "We are very busy at present, and have more men on the pay role than we ever had before."

The North-Western Fertilizer Co., Union Stock Yards, 45th street and Central Ave., Chicago, Ill., are offering ground beef cracklings, beef, and crushed or granulated bone for poultry use

The Bowker Co., 43 Chatham street, Boston, are out with another calendar—this time a small one, representing a six months old pullet and her chicks, both raised on Bowker's Animal Meal.

Burpee's Farm Annual, 1898, published by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa., is one of the best editions gotten out by that company. Those interested in seeds should send for it.

The Bowker Fertilizing Co., Boston, have forwarded us a very interesting book on "comparisons" showing the relative strength of string, bridges, and fertilizers. Those interested in the latter should write for a copy of the book.

W. V. Russ, proprietor of the Excelsior Poultry Supply Company, 28 Vesey street, New York city, report the incubator trade far in excess of last year's business. Their Banner egg food and tonic is also meeting with unusually heavy sales.

Charles A. Cyphers has associated with him in business, Frank G. Patchin, of Wayland, N. Y., the firm to be known as the Cyphers Incubator Co., of Philadelphia. About June 1st, the plant will be removed to Wayland, N. Y.

Farmers Bulletin No. 64, U. S. Department of Agriculture, on "Ducks and Geese," has been received, but too late for review in this issue. A hasty glance through the work, however, impresses us that it is one of the best, if not the best poultry bulletin yet gotten out by the Department, and especial credit is due the author, George E. Howard.

A Natick, Mass. poultryman, reports the laying of a Felch Brahma hen, at 195 eggs from the time she began laying in October, 1896, to October, 1897. And he has several others that laid from 163 to 181 eggs during the year. All Brahma breeders agree that the Felch stock are noted for their laying qualities. See advertisement of Felch & Son, in this issue.

The new catalogue of the Star Incubator and Brooder Co., Bound Brook, N. J., is a very neat book. This firm are offering a number of features in their incubators, as, for instance, a system by which "no moisture is needed." The general construction of the Star is excellent, and we have every reason to believe it is a first-class machine. Those interested in incubators and brooders should write the firm, as above, for their latest catalogue.

Barred Plymouth Rocks. My special laying strain. Mated with exhibition males, only \$1 a sitting. A few sittings from special exhibition matings, at \$2. P. D. AURANDT, Altoona, Pa.

Maple Farm Duck Yards.

The largest Pekin duck ranch in the Country. Twenty-five hundred mammoth breeding birds. We guarantee the fertility and safe delivery of our eggs. Send for catalogue to

JAMES RANKIN, South Easton, Mass.

NIAGARA FARM,

Ransomville, N. Y.

Indian Games, Wyandottes, White Leghorns (S.C.) Light Brahmas, Mammoth Pekin Ducks, White Holland Turkeys, Mammoth Embden Geese. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13; \$3.00 per 50; \$5.00 per 100; except Turkey, Geese and Game eggs, 25 cts. each. A few choice Cockerels and Pullets: Wyandottes, White Leghorns, Light Brahmas. \$1.00 to \$3.00. W. H. Turkey Toms, \$2.00 to \$3.00 each. Choice Cut Clover (second crop, cut fine) \$1.25 per 100 pounds.

Bred for Heavy Laying.

Single Comb White Leghorns—Eggs, \$1.25 per 15.

Pekin Ducks—Eggs, \$1.25 per 11.

Only limited number of sittings will be sold. They are strictly business fowls. Orders booked now.

M. K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.

W. R. Curtiss & Co., proprietors of the Niagara Farm, Ransomville, N. Y., are offering clover hay at \$1.25 per 100 pounds. We secured a lot of this clover for duck feeding, and are more than pleased with it. We cannot see how so good an article can be sold at such a low figure. One feature of the clover is that it is almost as green as when first cut, and both ducks and fowls greedily devour it.

Johnson & Stokes' 1898 Garden and Farm Manual is the handsomest work yet gotten out by the firm, the half-tone engravings, made from their own photographs, are especially fine. This firm are the pioneers in the seed trade for the introduction of this method of illustrating. Besides doing an extensive seed business, they are carrying on a large live stock and poultry trade; Scotch Collie dogs and the leading varieties of poultry being their specialty. Johnson & Stokes have been doing business for a score of years, and are perfectly reliable. Those desiring the manual should address them at 217 Market street, Philadelphia, Pa.

The latest addition to the machinery on the experimental farm of A FEW HENS, is a Granite State Cooker, manufactured by the Granite State Evaporator Co., 500 Temple Court, New York city. We are more than pleased with the workings of this furnace. It is made of the best quality cast iron, while the sides and linings are of sheet steel plates. As the air in the passage between the linings and outside sheet becomes heated, it passes into the fire box directly under bottom of boiler, and out through the smoke stack, thus increasing the heating capacity, and requiring less fuel than ordinary. The boiler is made of galvanized steel, which will not rust or corrode. Four iron drop handles are fastened to the sides for lifting from the furnace, and a tight fitting galvanized steel cover is added. It is the most complete affair we have yet seen, and we intend noting from time to time, the tests we will make with it in cooking food for poultry.



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Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Choice Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

Utility is a second-class affair among European fanciers.

A pint of kerosene to a gallon of whitewash, makes an excellent insecticide.

W. H. Rankin says one of the secrets of his success is the fact that he is up every morning before the hens are.

The *Rural New-Yorker* says 90 per cent of the poultry business may be learned from books, but the lacking 10 per cent is the key.

"This is a practical country," writes Judge G. O. Brown, "and breeding fowls for mere fancy or beauty alone will never become popular. Beauty and utility should be twins in poultry raising."

Exports of poultry from Montreal the past season are the largest in the history of the trade. Exports of eggs in 1897 were 172,000 cases compared with 142,000 in 1896, and 95,000 in 1895, largely to the United Kingdom.

Utility had a grand victory when the American Poultry Association in Boston, agreed that the every-five-year revision of the standard was to be done away with. A permanent standard will help the utility men to keep in line without sacrificing the egg and meat qualities.

"The points that constitute the general make-up of a purebred fowl should only be looked after sufficiently to insure purity," writes Judge G. O. Brown, in the *Baltimore Sun*. "The effort to develop in an extravagant degree any particular feature or point, will invariably be carried out at the expense of utility." Wonder if Mr. Curtis has read that?

A good substitute for glass is to paint muslin with a mixture made as follows: Old pale linseed oil, 3 pints; sugar of lead, 1 ounce; white rosin, 4 ounces. Grind the sugar of lead with a little of the oil, and then add the rest of the ingredients. Use an iron kettle over a gentle fire. Apply with a brush, hot.

"If poultry breeders would pay more attention to developing utility, there would be more demand for poultry, and more people would become interested." That declaration is made by Judge G. O. Brown, one of the most prominent fanciers in the country—and we reproduce it especially for the benefit of Mr. Howard of the *Feather*. Wonder if Judge Brown is a "bumptious individual."

"Ground hog day" was on February 2d. On that day the ground hog comes from out his hole, and if he sees his shadow he returns for six weeks. But if the day be cloudy or stormy, he remains out, for then the backbone of winter is broken. At least so says an old superstition. How was the weather in your locality? See if it holds good. With us the hog saw his shadow!

At a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, of St. Paul, Minn., a member offered a resolution indorsing the approaching exposition of the Minnesota State Poultry Association. The resolution pointed out that more than 50 per cent of the farmers' family supplies are paid for by the hen product; that the profit from the hen surpasses any one product from the farm; that 1895 comparative values in the United States were, hen product, \$290,000,000, cotton crop, \$259,000,000, wheat crop, \$237,000,000, oats crop, \$163,000,000; that the combined value of the wool clip, the sheep and swine industry, are not equal to the value of the hen product.

"I do not agree with many breeders that fine birds, bred with the desire for show specimens, should be the first step," says E. O. Roesselle, in *Country Gentleman*. "This belongs more especially to the amateur fancier, who may be indifferent to profit, but more anxious for reputation gained by success in the show room. To start with thoroughbred stock I believe in fully. The strongest and healthiest specimens one can obtain are none too good for the market branch. These are getting scarce enough, and it would pay breeders better to improve their flocks with this end in view than to devote so much to form and feathers."

A FEW HENS asked Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., who is breeding both Silver and White Wyandottes, which of the two breeds were most profitable and satisfactory. He replied:

"I really don't see much difference between the Silver and White varieties. I think, however, the Whites are decidedly more satisfactory to breed, and they are certainly easier to keep up to a good standard. I think there are comparatively few who will take the necessary care and make the study necessary to keep a flock of Silvers up. To one who will give the matter study, it is very interesting, and will give you plenty to think about." Practically, the one variety is as good as the other.

"From M. K. Boyer, the author, Hammonton, N. J., we have received copies of the following poultry books: 'A Living from Poultry,' 25 cents; 'The Farm-Poultry Doctor,' 50 cents; 'Broilers for Profit,' 50 cents; 'Profitable Poultry Farming,' 25 cents. These are each valuable practical treatises, by a gentleman of long and successful experience, and would be worth many times their cost to any one engaged in poultry keeping. The poultry and egg business, by the way, is attracting more attention from our farmers from year to year, and such information as these books contain, ought to be generally disseminated. The result would be to render the business far more profitable than it ever has been."—*Indiana Farmer*.

E. F. Hill, in *American Poultry Journal*, gives this novel way of preventing fence flying: Take good strong string and tie a knot about three inches from the end; then take the end nearest the knot and put it around the tip end of the one wing, and tie a slip knot below the knot in the string, so it cannot pull up too tight on the wing. Then pass the other end of the string under the other wing, and have it just loose enough so that the chicken can keep its wings folded naturally, and tie same as other end. After it has been on about six weeks the string may be removed, and your chicken will stay in just as though it had never flown over a fence.

"A Living from Poultry" is an attractive title, but to thoroughly appreciate what it means you should read the little work of this name, edited by that veteran fancier and breeder, M. K. Boyer. We have waded through a vast amount of poultry literature during our lives, have read much about the culture of poultry, and how to make it a success, and even thought we knew something about it, but after reading this admirable small treatise, we must say, not as a puff ad., but in justice to our fellow poultrymen, that it contains more common sense ideas, more real, genuine, boiled down, good, practical instruction for those about beginning the poultry business (and mighty good food for even the older and wiser heads who think they know it all) than pounds of the poultry reading brought to our notice. There is one thing about it, if you read it, it can do you no harm, and any man who follows out its ideas and directions, cannot help but make a success. We say emphatically "it is a good thing, push it along!"—*Poultry Culture*.

WANTED

Every reader of this paper who is interested in poultry, to send his name to W. H. SCHADT, Goshen, Ind., for which he will have his name inserted in our Poultry Directory, which goes to nearly one hundred firms; consisting of poultry paper publishers, poultry supply houses, etc., etc. The only condition we do this on is that you mention A FEW HENS and enclose ten cents for the service we render you.

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